THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMIC MAGAZINE!
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
Fantastic Four
IND.
54 SEPT
12¢
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
FEATURING: A FLAMING, FLYING, FIGHTING-MAD HUMAN TORCH!

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THE FABULOUS F.F. GO THEIR SEPARATE WAYS!
"WHOSOEVER FINDS THE EVIL EYE..!"
SURE YOU'VE SEEN BASEBALL GAMES BEFORE! BUT, WE THINK YOU'LL FIND THIS ONE JUST A LITTLE BIT... DIFFERENT!
HEADS UP, KIDDIES! MY KNUCKLE-DUSTER PITCH CAN MAKE A BULLET LOOK LIKE IT'S STANDIN' STILL!
TAKE IT EASY, BEN! EVEN THAT TITANIUM BAT... WHICH THE BLACK PANTHER GAVE US... MIGHT BUCKLE UNDER IF YOU REALLY BEAR DOWN!
JUST PUT IT OVER THE PLATE, MR. GRIMM!
THIS WILL NEVER REPLACE LION-HUNTING, MY FRIENDS!
YOU'RE WAY AHEAD OF 'IM, BENJY BOY!
CAREFUL, JOHNNY! NO MITT IS PADDED ENOUGH TO HANDLE BEN'S FAST BALL!
POOR WYATT! HE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT HE'S IN FOR IF BEN REALLY LET'S GO!
BY THEIR LUSTER SHALL YE KNOW THEM!
SCRIPT: SMILIN' STAN LEE
ART: JOLLY JACK KIRBY
INKING: JOVIAL JOE SINNOTT
LETTERING: SHARLIN' SAM ROSEN

THING!! YOU DO NOT REALLY INTEND TO HURL THAT WITH ALL YOUR MIGHT, DO YOU?
NATCHERLY NOT! I DON'T WANNA TOSS THIS OVERGROWN PING PONG BALL CLEAN THROUGH MY LITTLE BUDDY'S PAW!
PLAY IT SAFE, FELLA! BETTER PEG IT IN UNDER-HAND!
MEBBE YA'D LIKE ME TO ROLL IT, LIKE AN IMMY!
AWRIGHT... SINCE THIS AIN'T EXACTLY THE WORLD SERIES, I'LL FLIP IT TO YA PANTY-WAIST STYLE..!
TIMBERRR!
WHA..? HE HIT IT!!
THE NOISE!! IT'S LIKE A SONIC BOOM!
WROK!
UHH! FEELS LIKE I STUCK MY HEAD BETWEEN TWO CANNONS!
THAT'S WHAT I GIT FER PITCHIN' UNDERHAND!!
HE BLASTED IT CLEAN OUTTA THE BALL PARK!
IT'S ABOUT TIME! OUR TEAM IS TRAILING BY ALMOST FIFTY RUNS!
IT FIGGERS! HOW CAN YA BEAT A BUNCH'A SUPER-POWERED SWEETIES LIKE US?
OH.. NO! THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN A HOMER IN ANY OTHER BALL GAME!
IF WING-FOOT CAN REACH FIRST BASE BE-FORE YOU TAG HIM, I FEEL WE SHOULD STILL ALLOW HIM THE HIT!
I HATE TO DO THIS, SON... BUT WE'RE DOWN TO OUR LAST BASEBALL!
FAIR ENOUGH! BUT I STILL... UNHHHH!
I'M SAFE!
BUT, WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM? WHY DID HE TOPPLE?
SWOOOSH!
3

RATS! I KNEW SOMETHIN' WOULD SPOIL MY NO-HITTER!
YOU'RE FASTER THAN I THOUGHT, WYATT! I DIDN'T EVEN SEE YOU BUMPING INTO ME!
BUT I DIDN'T, MR. RICHARDS! I NEVER TOUCHED YOU!
HE SPEAKS THE TRUTH, MY FRIEND! YOU MUST HAVE STUMBLED!
ANYONE WHO KNOWS MR. FANTASTIC LIKE I KNOW HIM HAS TO ADMIT THAT HE NEVER STUMBLES!
I WONDER WHAT DID TRIP HIM UP?
MEBBE YER JUST BUSHED, STRETCHO! AFTER ALL, YOU AIN'T GETTIN' ANY YOUNGER, PAL!
YA WANT I SHOULD BRING YA SOME WARM MILK AN' A COOKIE!
AT EASE, BEN! I'M NOT READY TO BE PUT OUT TO PASTURE YET!
BESIDES, I'VE SUDDENLY FOUND THE ANSWER I WAS LOOKING FOR..!
I SHOULD HAVE GUESSED!
IT'S THE INVISIBLE GIRL... MATERIALIZING!
SUSAN S. RICHARDS! MY OWN LITTLE BRIDE!
I'M SORRY, DARLING... BUT YOU WERE UNFAIR TO POOR WYATT!
WELL, YOUNG LADY... PERHAPS IT'S TIME FOR ME TO TEACH YOU WHERE A YOUNG WIFE'S LOYALTY SHOULD BE!
YOU'LL HAVE TO CATCH ME FIRST! AND I'LL BET YOU CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT STRETCHING YOUR ARMS OUT LIKE YOU DID TO CATCH THAT BALL!
WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT, PRETTY GIRL!
WELL, THERE GOES THE BLASTED BALL GAME! WHEN HE FINALLY CATCHES 'ER, THEY'LL PROBABLY GO OFF 'N SHMOOZE SOME-WHERE!
WHAT A REVOLTIN' DEVELOP-MENT!
NEVER HAVE I ENJOYED THE COMPANY OF ANY SO MUCH AS THE FANTASTIC FOUR! YOU HAVE FILLED MY LAND WITH CHEER AND THE SPIRIT OF FELLOWSHIP!
AND NOW, IN MY OWN SMALL WAY, I SHALL TRY TO SHOW MY GRATITUDE..!
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CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

MORE MARVEL MASTERPIECES...
the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
12¢
SPIDEY SAVES THE DAY!
THE END OF THE GREEN GOBLIN!
KING-SIZE SPECIAL!
SGT. FURY AND HIS HOWLING COMMANDOS
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25¢
MORE PAGES! MORE THRILLS!
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
WE HAD TO DO IT! AT LAST—THE MOST REQUESTED HOWLER SAGA OF ALL!
THIS WAS... D-DAY!
NOW ON SALE!
MARVEL'S MIGHTIEST MASTERPIECES!
MARVEL TALES
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
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THOR
STRANGE TALES
ASTONISH
HUMAN TORCH
ANT-MAN
VULTURE!

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Throw your voice into trunks, behind doors, everywhere. Instrument fits in your mouth and out of sight. Fool teacher, friends and family. Free book on "How to Become a Ventriloquist."
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Are you willing to take a chance? We won't tell you what you get, but because you're willing to gamble, we'll give you more than your money's worth.
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The powerful choice secrets of: Karate, Aikido, Ate-Waza, Judo, Yawara, Jiu Jitsu, Savate
REDUCE ANY ASSAILANT TO CRINGING HELPLESSNESS IN SECONDS
Learn by yourself in just one week. No matter how small you are you can walk with confidence—fear no man.
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This tiny, feather weight radio operates without batteries, without tubes, but brings you years of listening pleasure. There's nothing to wear out, nothing to replace.
No. 044 ..... $2.98
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This whistle can't be heard by human ears, but Rover can hear it half a mile away. Your dog will understand that this whistle is for him alone. Be amazed how quickly he responds.
No. 701 ..... $1.00
SEE BEHIND GLASSES
A specially treated pair of sunglasses with secret mirrors that enable you to see behind you without anyone knowing you're watching. Really comes in handy at times.
No. 30 ..... 75c
TREASURE CHEST OF FUN
MONSTER S-I-Z-E MONSTERS
A full 6 feet tall in authentic full color and so very life-like you'll probably find yourself talking to them. We have these two all-time favorites — spine-chilling Frankenstein, and the mad vampire Dracula.
No. F17 ... 1.00
6 FT. TALL
WORMS
Drop these seemingly innocent pellets into a glass of water and magically a worm will appear. Can you imagine the look of horror on your victims face? It's harmless.
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ONION GUM
Yes—Looks like real chewing gum but tastes like . . . like . . . ONIONS! Its too funny! 12 slices to a pack.
No. 281 ..... 20¢
MINIATURE SECRET CAMERA
Precision camera so small, it fits in cigarette pack. Weighs 2½ ounces and takes 10 pictures per roll. Precision ground lens and time expose shutter. Can be hidden anywhere. Complete with free roll of film.
No. 768 ..... $1.00
6 Rolls Film 79c
WHOOPEE CUSHION
Place it on a chair under a cushion, then watch the fun when someone sits down! It gives forth embarrassing noises. Made of rubber, and inflatable. A scream at parties and gatherings.
No. 247 ..... 50c
JOY BUZZER
The most popular joke novelty in years! Wind up and wear it like a ring. When you shake hands, it almost raises the victim off his feet with a "shocking sensation." Absolutely harmless.
No. 239 ..... Only 50c
X-RAY SPECS
An Hilarious Optical Illusion $1.00
Scientific optical principle really works. Imagine — you put on the "X-Ray" Specs and hold your hand in front of you. You seem to be able to look right through the flesh and see the bones underneath. Look at your friend. Is that really his body you "see" under his clothes? Loads of laughs and fun at parties.
No. FL7 ..... $1.00
TRICK BASEBALL
It bounces cockeyed, it curves, it dips, it's impossible to catch. It's sure to set all the kids on the block spinning after it. There's a barrel of fun in every bounce.
No. 158 ..... 50c
Secret Spy Scope
Pen Size—Clips On Your Pocket-6-Power Magnifier. This exciting new 6-power wide field magnifier is cleverly concealed in a pen-sized pocket scope that lets you "peek" to your hearts content. So handy for Sporting Events, Counter-spying and Girl Watching. Also contains a 30-power full microscope to thrill any naturalist. Not a toy, but a real instrument. Full money back guarantee if not delighted. Only $2.98.
Item No. F59 ..... $2.98
TRICK BLACK SOAP
Ordinary looking piece of soap. Victim washes face and gets blacker and blacker. When he gets a look in the mirror, he'll be shocked. Harmless.
No. 575 ..... Only 25c
Honor House Prod. Corp. Dept. 77GK 20
Lynbrook, N.Y.
Rush me the items listed below. If I am not 100% satisfied, I may return any part of my purchase after 10 days Free Trial for full refund of purchase price.
Item | Name of Item | How Many | Total Price
I enclose ..... in full payment. Same guarantee.
Send C.O.D. I will pay postman on delivery plus postage.
Name
Address
N.Y. State residents please add 2% sales tax.
Sorry, we cannot ship orders for less than $1.00
Kindly add 15c for postage and handling to all orders.

BUT, ONE GUEST THERE IS WHO DOES NOT EVEN HEAR THE MAGNIFICENT MELODIES... FOR HIS THOUGHTS CONSTANTLY RETURN TO A SAD-EYED GIRL... A GIRL HE CAN NEVER FORGET...
THE NIGHTS ARE THE HARDEST! I KEEP HEARING HER VOICE IN MY BRAIN... WHISPERING... PLEADING... CALLING TO ME..!
JOHNNY! WHERE ARE YOU? I'LL NEVER STOP WAITING FOR YOU...MY JOHNNY!
...A GIRL, UNLIKE ANY OTHER GIRL ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH! AND, IN A LAND WHERE FEW HAVE EVER TROD, SHE IS IMPRISONED BEHIND A BARRIER WHICH NO MAN CAN SHATTER --- THE BARRIER BENEATH WHICH THE INHUMANS DWELL!
WE SHALL NEVER STOP TRYING TO FIND A MEANS OF SMASHING THIS ACCURSED BARRIER!
EVEN NOW, BLACK BOLT RETURNS... FROM HIS DAILY MISSION OF GLIDING AROUND THE CITY, SEEKING ANY POSSIBLE WEAK SPOT IN THE ETERNAL DOME!
'TIS ALL THE DOING OF MAXIMUS, THE NOW-MAD BROTHER OF BLACK BOLT!
'TWAS HE WHO CREATED THE BARRIER.. AND ONLY HE KNOWS THE SECRET OF ITS DESTRUCTION!
BUT, THE LOOK ON HIS FACE IS ENOUGH TO TELL US HE HAS FAILED ONCE MORE! NO WEAK SPOT EXISTS! WE SHALL NEVER ESCAPE!
BUT, THE SECRET IS FOREVER LOCKED WITHIN HIS MADDENED BRAIN!
YET, ALTHOUGH THEY KNOW FULL WELL THAT THEIR CAUSE IS VIRTUALLY HOPELESS, THE AWESOME INHUMANS DESPERATELY REACH OUT FOR ANY FAINT RAY OF HOPE.. OF ENCOURAGEMENT...
BLACK BOLT... DID YOU FIND ANYTHING AT ALL? EVEN THE SLIGHTEST WEAK SPOT IN THE BARRIER?
OR, HAVE YOU FOUND THE SECRET WHICH ONLY YOUR BROTHER KNOWS? AFTER ALL... YOUR BRAIN IS AS KEEN AS HIS!
THOUGH YOU ARE DENIED THE POWER OF SPEECH, YOUR MEANING IS ABUNDANTLY CLEAR! WE ARE STILL DOOMED TO LIVE OUT OUR LIVES BENEATH THIS ACCURSED DOME!
OH, GORGON... IF I CANNOT SEE JOHNNY STORM AGAIN, THEN NOTHING ELSE MATTERS! IT IS AS THOUGH MY LIFE HAS ALREADY COME TO AN END!
DO NOT DESPAIR, MY CHILD! WE SHALL YET FIND A WAY!
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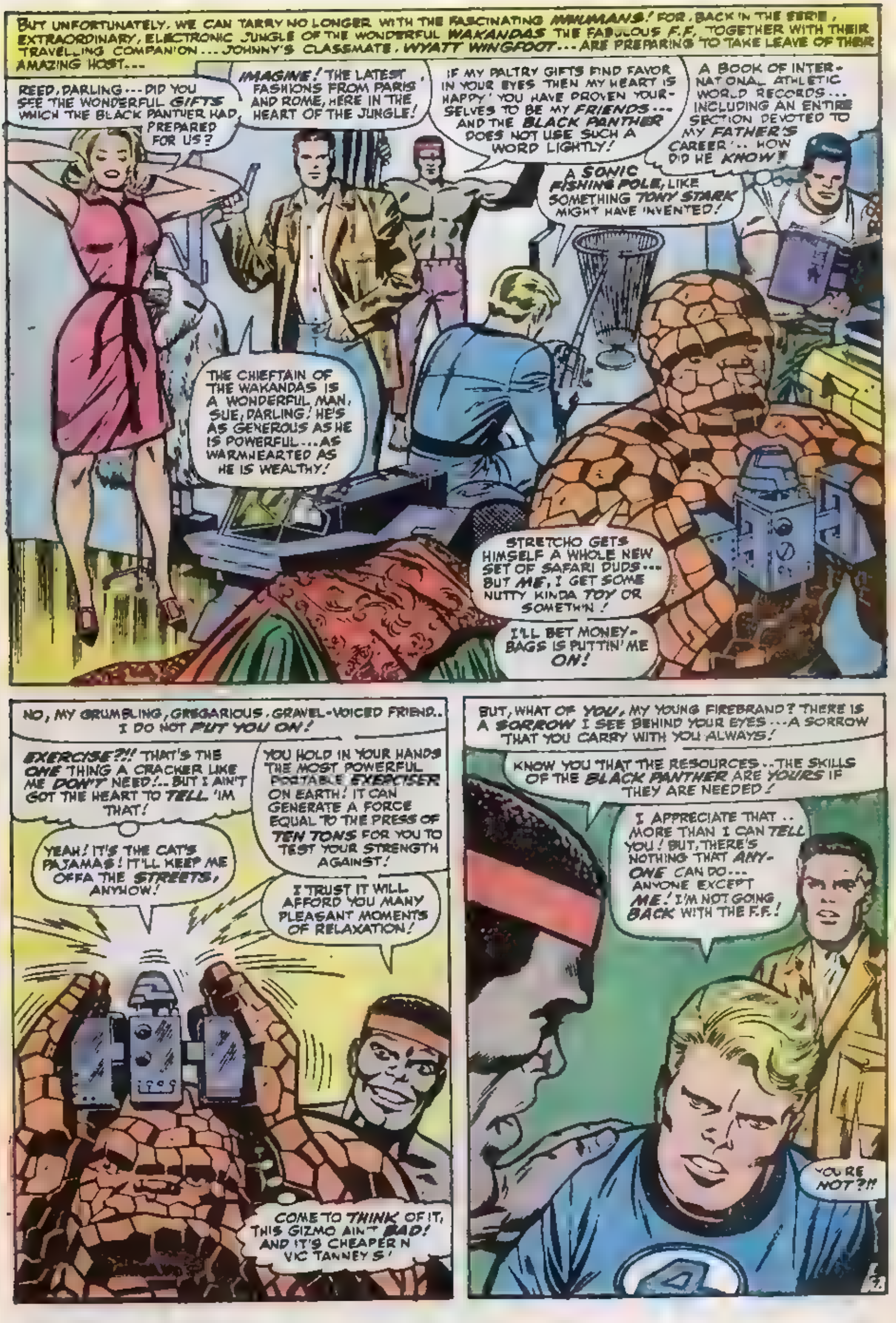
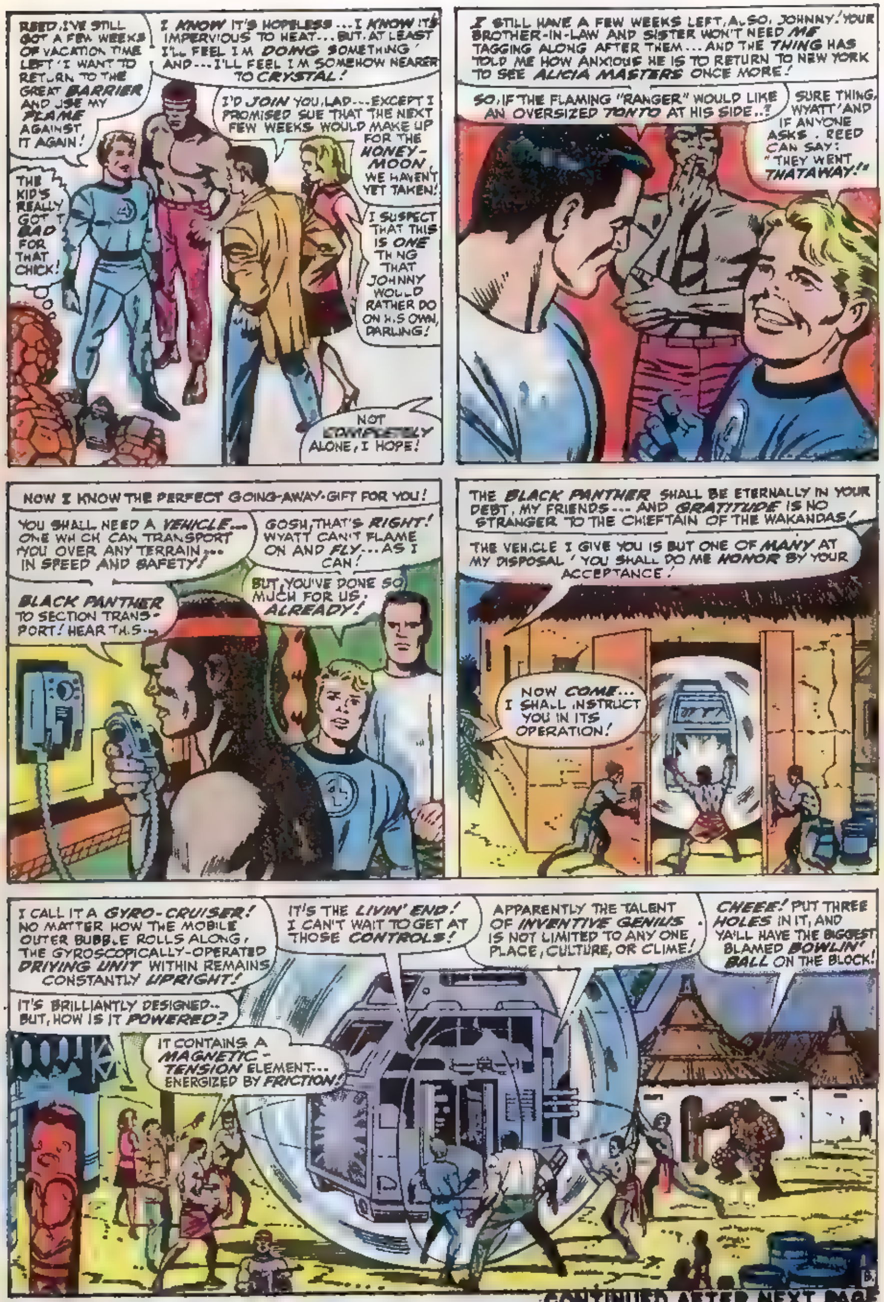
LET US FOLLOW BLACK BOLT! HE GOES TO VISIT MAXIMUS ONCE MORE!
FOR HE KNOWS FULL WELL... AS DO WE ALL... THAT ONLY THE EVIL MAXIMUS KNOWS HOW TO REVERSE THE NEGATIVE CHARGE OF HIS DREADED ATMOS GUN... AND NOTHING ELSE ON EARTH CAN SHATTER THE BARRIER!
BUT, SINCE BLACK BOLT DEFEATED MAXIMUS... AND REGAINED THE THRONE WHICH WAS USURPED FROM HIM... HIS BROTHER HAS BECOME A BABBLING MADMAN!
TRUE, CRYSTAL! BUT BLACK BOLT IS STILL THE POWER! TRUST HIM, MY CHILD!
OPENING MAXIMUS' CELL DOOR WITH DEXTROUS FINGERS STRONG AS FORGED STEEL BANDS, BLACK BOLT SEES THE FEMALE WHOM HE LOVES... THE LONG-HAIRED, MYSTERIOUS MEDUSA... TRYING TO CAJOLE THE FATEFUL SECRET FROM THE CACKLING CREATURE WHO CROUCHES IN THE CORNER...
WE WILL NOT HARM YOU, MAXIMUS! YOU MUST TELL US HOW TO REVERSE THE NEGATIVE ZONE SO THAT... OH!
BLACK BOLT! I'VE BEEN HERE FOR HOURS, BUT IT SEEMS HOPELESS!
HE EITHER CANNOT... OR WILL NOT UNDERSTAND!
AHH! I AM GLAD YOU HAVE COME! NOW, I CAN SHOW YOU WHAT I HAVE BUILT! YOU WILL BE ABLE TO SEE HOW CLEVER MAXIMUS IS!
HE SPEAKS WITH THE TONE OF AN INCOHERENT CHILD! HE LIVES IN A FANTASY WORLD OF HIS OWN MAKING!
SHOW US, MAXIMUS! WHAT HAVE YOU CREATED?
SEE? IT IS A METAL KITE! BUT IT FLIES WITHOUT WINGS--- WITHOUT A MOTOR!
I MERELY ADAPTED IT TO A POLARIZED ANTI-GRAVITY CAPSULE! SEE HOW IT FLIES!
I FORGIVE YOU, BLACK BOLT! I FORGIVE YOU FOR TAKING MY CROWN AWAY FROM ME! AFTER ALL, ARE YOU NOT MY OWN BROTHER?
IF YOU LIKE, I WILL MAKE A METAL KITE FOR YOU! OR, I WILL MAKE YOU SOME OTHER CLEVER PLAYTHING!
OH, I FORGOT! YOU CANNOT ANSWER! YOU CANNOT SPEAK!
I SHALL SPEAK FOR BLACK BOLT! I KNOW WHAT HE WOULD LIKE BEST OF ALL! CAN YOU MAKE SOMETHING THAT CAN SHATTER ANY BARRIER? I DON'T THINK YOU ARE ABLE TO!
WILL MAXIMUS DO IT? WILL HE TRY TO PROVE HE CAN MAKE IT? OR... IS HE TOO MAD? IS IT IMPOSSIBLE? EVERYTHING DEPENDS ON WHAT HAPPENS NEXT!
6.


BUT UNFORTUNATELY, WE CAN TARRY NO LONGER WITH THE FASCINATING INHUMANS! FOR, BACK IN THE EERIE, EXTRAORDINARY, ELECTRONIC JUNGLE OF THE WONDERFUL WAKANDAS THE FABULOUS F.F., TOGETHER WITH THEIR TRAVELLING COMPANION... JOHNNY'S CLASSMATE, WYATT WINGFOOT... ARE PREPARING TO TAKE LEAVE OF THEIR AMAZING HOST...
REED, DARLING --- DID YOU SEE THE WONDERFUL GIFTS WHICH THE BLACK PANTHER HAD PREPARED FOR US?
IMAGINE! THE LATEST FASHIONS FROM PARIS AND ROME, HERE IN THE HEART OF THE JUNGLE!
IF MY PALTRY GIFTS FIND FAVOR IN YOUR EYES THEN MY HEART IS HAPPY! YOU HAVE PROVEN YOURSELVES TO BE MY FRIENDS --- AND THE BLACK PANTHER DOES NOT USE SUCH A WORD LIGHTLY!
A BOOK OF INTERNATIONAL ATHLETIC WORLD RECORDS... INCLUDING AN ENTIRE SECTION DEVOTED TO MY FATHER'S CAREER... HOW DID HE KNOW?
A SONIC FISHING POLE, LIKE SOMETHING TONY STARK MIGHT HAVE INVENTED!
THE CHIEFTAIN OF THE WAKANDAS IS A WONDERFUL MAN, SUE, DARLING! HE'S AS GENEROUS AS HE IS POWERFUL... AS WARMHEARTED AS HE IS WEALTHY!
STRETCHO GETS HIMSELF A WHOLE NEW SET OF SAFARI DUDS... BUT ME, I GET SOME NUTTY KINDA TOY OR SOMETH'N!
I'LL BET MONEYBAGS IS PUTTIN' ME ON!
NO, MY GRUMBLING, GREGARIOUS, GRAVEL-VOICED FRIEND.. I DO NOT PUT YOU ON!
YOU HOLD IN YOUR HANDS THE MOST POWERFUL PORTABLE EXERCISER ON EARTH! IT CAN GENERATE A FORCE EQUAL TO THE PRESS OF TEN TONS FOR YOU TO TEST YOUR STRENGTH AGAINST!
EXERCISE?!! THAT'S THE ONE THING A CRACKER LIKE ME DON'T NEED!.. BUT I AIN'T GOT THE HEART TO TELL 'IM THAT!
YEAH! IT'S THE CAT'S PAJAMAS! IT'LL KEEP ME OFFA THE STREETS, ANYHOW!
I TRUST IT WILL AFFORD YOU MANY PLEASANT MOMENTS OF RELAXATION!
COME TO THINK OF IT, THIS GIZMO AIN'T BAD! AND IT'S CHEAPER'N VIC TANNEY'S!
BUT, WHAT OF YOU, MY YOUNG FIREBRAND? THERE IS A SORROW I SEE BEHIND YOUR EYES... A SORROW THAT YOU CARRY WITH YOU ALWAYS!
KNOW YOU THAT THE RESOURCES.. THE SKILLS OF THE BLACK PANTHER ARE YOURS IF THEY ARE NEEDED!
I APPRECIATE THAT.. MORE THAN I CAN TELL YOU! BUT, THERE'S NOTHING THAT ANYONE CAN DO... ANYONE EXCEPT ME! I'M NOT GOING BACK WITH THE F.F.!
YOU'RE NOT?!!



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IS YOUR HAIR GROWING OR GOING?

Stand in front of a mirror. Take a long hard look at the top of your head. Do you have as much hair as one year ago? Do you see any new hair growth?

If your answer is no, it is important that you take steps today to save the hair you now have. If you act now, you may be able to reverse the trend on your head. You may be able to grow new hair faster than it is falling out. Doesn't that make sense to you? Wouldn't you like to look in the mirror a year from now and see more hair on your head than you see now? Why lose your hair if you don't have to?

CAN YOU SAVE YOUR HAIR?

Every year thousands of men and women go bald — needlessly — because of a scalp infection. This scalp infection is called seborrhea. Doctors say that three germ organisms cause seborrhea: staphyloccocus albus, pityrosporum ovale, and microbacillus. These germs attack the sebaceous glands and the hair follicles themselves. If not checked, permanent damage is done. The hair follicles atrophy, lose their ability to produce new hairs. The result: premature baldness.

You can easily tell if you are a victim of seborrhea. If you have itchy scalp, dandruff, hair loss, very dry or oily scalp, the chances are that you have seborrhea. Neglect these symptoms and you invite baldness.

Treat your scalp to Ward's Formula. This amazing scalp medicine quickly controls seborrhea and stops the hair loss it causes.

Here's the Proof!

I must admit I didn't have much faith in it, but I hadn't been using Ward's one week before I could see it was helping me. I could feel my hair getting thicker.
F. K., Cleveland, Ohio

Out of all the Hair Experts I went to, I've gotten the most help from one bottle of Ward's Formula.
C. La M., Philadelphia, Pa.

After using Ward's for only 12 days, my hair has stopped falling out.
R. W. C., Cicero, Ill.

I am tickled to death with the results. In just two weeks, time no dandruff!
W. T. W., Pueblo, Cal.

I feel encouraged to say that the infuriating scalp itch which has bothered me for 5 years is now gone.
J. M. K., Columbus, Ohio

Male pattern baldness is the cause of the great majority of cases of baldness and excessive hair loss, for which neither the Ward treatment nor any other treatment is effective.

DOUBLE MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

In seconds, Ward's Formula kills the three parasitic germ organisms retarding normal hair growth. This swift germicidal action has been proven in scientific tests by a world-famous testing laboratory (copy of laboratory report sent on request). Ward's removes infectious dandruff, stops scalp itch, brings hair-nourishing blood to the scalp, tends to normalize very dry or oily scalp. In brief Ward's Formula corrects the ugly symptoms of seborrhea, stops the hair loss it causes. Ward's Formula has been tried by more than 550,000 men and women on our famous Double Your Money Back Guarantee. Only 1.9% of these men and women were not helped by Ward's and asked for their double refund. This is truly an amazing performance. Why not join the men and women who have successfully ended their troubles? Treat your scalp with Ward's Formula. *Try it at our risk.* In only 10 days you must see and feel the marked improvement in your scalp and hair. Your dandruff must be gone. Your scalp itch must stop. Your hair must look thicker, more attractive, and alive. Your excessive hair loss must stop. You must be completely satisfied — in only 10 days — with the improved condition of your scalp and hair, or simply return the unused portion for Double Your Money Back. So why delay? Delay may cost your hair.

H. H. Ward & Co., Inc., 19 West 44 Street, N. Y. 36, N. Y. © 1963

Doctors and hospitals can obtain professional samples of Ward's Formula on written request.

H. H. Ward & Co., Inc. Dept. 3908T
19 West 44 Street, New York 36, N. Y.

Rush Ward's Formula to me at once. I must be completely satisfied in only 10 days or you GUARANTEE refund of DOUBLE MY MONEY BACK upon return of bottle and unused portion.

Name ....

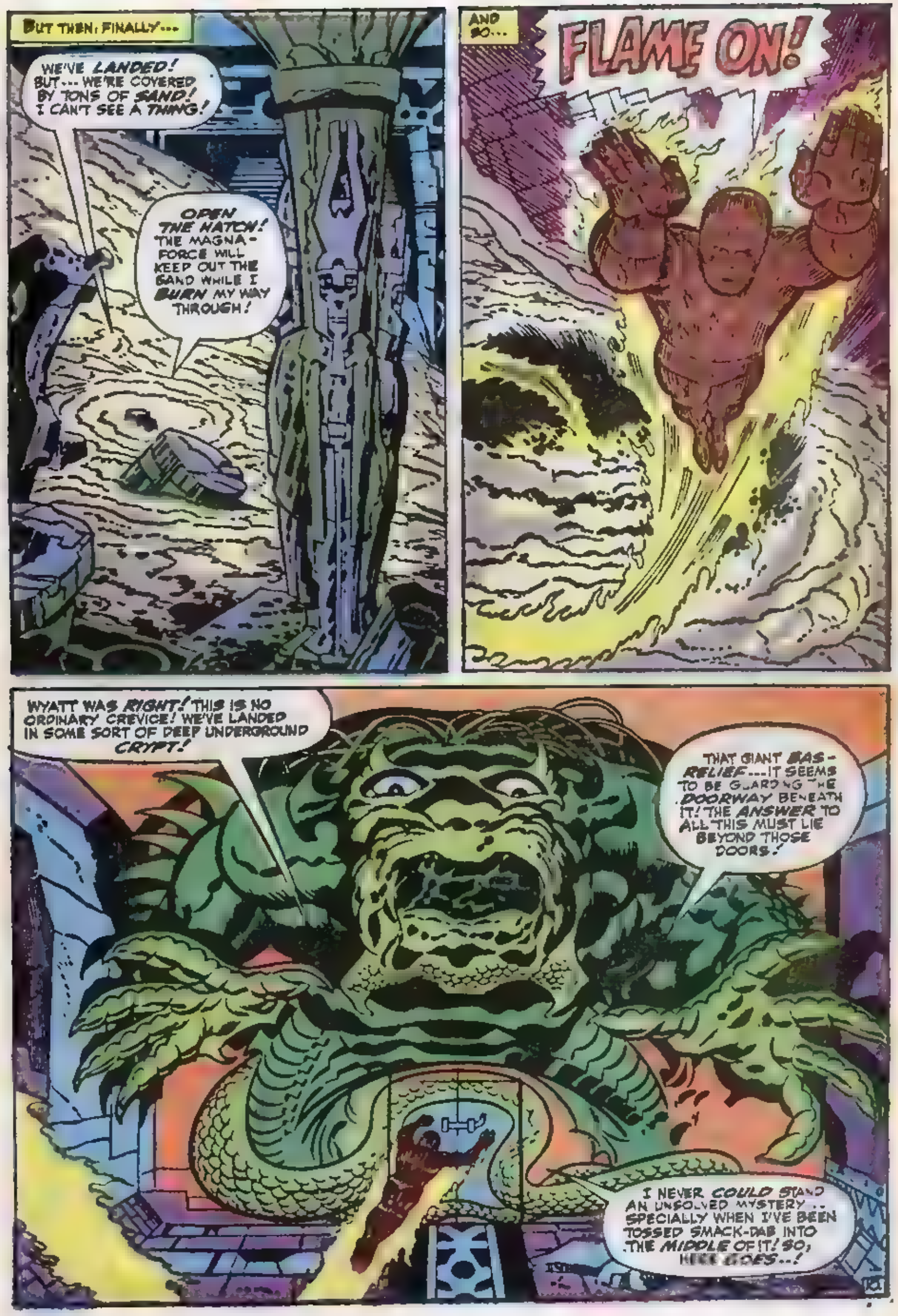
Address ....

City .... Zone ..... State .

☐ Enclosed find $2, send postpaid (check, cash, money order)
☐ Send C.O.D. I will pay postman $2 plus 76 cents in postal charges (save the 76 cents by enclosing $2)
☐ Send triple size for $5. You save $1.
Canadian, foreign, add 50 cents — No C O D

DOUBLE MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

A SHORT TIME LATER THE DAZZLING GYRO-CRUISER, WITH ITS TWO EAGER YOUNG PASSENGERS ROLLS SWIFTLY OUT OF THE WAKANDA TERRITORY, HEADING FOR THE OPEN DESERT TO THE NORTH
AND, WITHIN ITS VIBRATIONLESS INTERIOR...
SO FAR, SO GOOD! I'LL CLIMB ABOVE FOR A LITTLE SHUT-EYE NOW WYATT
SLEEP TIGHT, JOHNNY. I'LL SPELL YOU AT THE CONTROLS TILL YOU RETURN!
THEN AS THE MOMENTS TURN TO HOURS....
IT'S SO QUIET IN HERE SO COMPLETELY STILL
I FIND IT HARD TO BELIEVE THAT WE'RE GOING THROUGH A ROARING DEADLY SAND STORM JUST INCHES AWAY!
ALL THROUGH THE NIGHT THE BLINDING STORM CONTINUES, UNTIL
WE'RE SAFE ENOUGH WITHIN THIS INCREDIBLE VEHICLE--- BUT I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO SEE ANYTHING FOR HOURS!
I'D BETTER WAKEN JOHNNY
I'LL SAVE YOU THE TROUBLE, BIG BUDDY! I NEVER THOUGHT I COULD SLEEP THROUGH SOMETHING LIKE THIS... BUT THE SHIP IS SO INSULATED, I DIDN'T FEEL A THING!
WYATT! LOOK AT THE ALTIMETER! WE'RE SUDDENLY DROPPING..!
THE SAND MUST BE GIVING WAY BENEATH US! WE'RE PLUMMETING INTO A CREVICE!
BUT WE'VE BEEN FALLING.. STRAIGHT DOWN FOR MINUTES! IT'S NO ORDINARY CREVICE!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND! IT'S AS THOUGH WE'VE PLUNGED INTO SOME SORT OF HIDDEN SHAFT!
BUT A SHAFT LEADING TO WHAT??


BUT THEN, FINALLY...
WE'VE LANDED! BUT... WE'RE COVERED BY TONS OF SAND! I CAN'T SEE A THING!
OPEN THE HATCH! THE MAGNA-FORCE WILL KEEP OUT THE SAND WHILE I BURN MY WAY THROUGH!
AND SO...
FLAME ON!
WYATT WAS RIGHT! THIS IS NO ORDINARY CREVICE! WE'VE LANDED IN SOME SORT OF DEEP UNDERGROUND CRYPT!
THAT GIANT BAS-RELIEF... IT SEEMS TO BE GUARDING THE DOORWAY BENEATH IT! THE ANSWER TO ALL THIS MUST LIE BEYOND THOSE DOORS!
I NEVER COULD STAND AN UNSOLVED MYSTERY... SPECIALLY WHEN I'VE BEEN TOSSED SMACK-DAB INTO THE MIDDLE OF IT! SO, HERE GOES..!
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EMPLOYING HIS FABULOUS FLAME LIKE A LIVING ACETYLENE TORCH, THE BLAZING ADVENTURER MELTS THROUGH THE MASSIVE DOORS, ONLY TO FIND A SIGHT TO STAGGER THE IMAGINATION IN THE CHAMBER BEYOND...
A MAN...DRESSED IN SOME SORT OF MEDIEVAL GARB! HE...HE LOOKS AS THOUGH HE'S BEEN SITTING THERE FOR CENTURIES!
AND YET...I SEEM TO INSTINCTIVELY KNOW... WITHOUT REASON... WITHOUT PROOF...THAT ALTHOUGH HE'S MOTIONLESS...HE'S UNDENIABLY ALIVE!
JOHNNY THE CRUISER IS FREE! ITS MAGNETIC FRICTION FORCE EASILY REPELLED ALL THE SAND!
BUT WHAT HAPPENED? WHAT'S GOING ON IN HERE?
SEE FOR YOURSELF, W.W.!
AND THEN YOU TELL ME.. IF YOU CAN!
THAT MAN...IN THE CHAIR..HE'S STARTING TO MOVE... RISING TO HIS FEET!
BUT...LOOK HOW HE'S DRESSED! WHO IS HE?
I DON'T KNOW.. BUT I'VE SEEN FRIENDLIER EXPRESSIONS ON THE HULK...AND DOC DOOM!
THAT THING HE'S HOLDING... LIKE SOME PREHISTORIC FLASHLIGHT...HE'S POINTING IT AT US! IT MIGHT BE A WEAPON! WYATT...LOOK OUT!
HE'S PRESSING A CONTROL STUD! IT STARTING TO GLOW... TO VIBRATE...
11

AND THEN, BEFORE ANOTHER WORD CAN BE UTTERED.. OR ANOTHER MOVE CAN BE MADE ...
TOO LATE! HE'S... UNHHHH!
DUCK, JOHNNY! I...OHHHH..
STIZZZZT!
SECONDS LATER, AS CONSCIOUSNESS RETURNS TO THE TWO BEWILDERED YOUTHS ...
YOU MAY NOW RISE! HAVING SEEN MY POWER, YOU WILL KNOW BETTER THAN TO DARE PROVOKE ME!
WHAT KIND OF GADGET IS THAT? IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE WITH THE ANCIENT GETUP YOU'RE WEARING!
NOTHING MAKES SENSE HERE! WE'VE GOT TO LEARN WHO HE IS... AND WHERE WE ARE!
SINCE 'TIS I WHO HOLD THE SUPREME WEAPON... 'TIS I WHO SHALL ASK THE QUESTIONS!
WHAT MANNER OF CREATURES BE YOU... WHO DO POSSESS THE POWER TO TURN YOUR BODIES TO FLAME!
WE'RE NOT CREATURES, MISTER... WE'RE HUMANS.. JUST LIKE WE HOPE YOU ARE!
AND I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN FLAME ON AND OFF! THAT'S WHY I'M CALLED THE HUMAN TORCH!
TRULY ASTOUNDING! NOW BE GOOD ENOUGH TO TELL ME WHAT CENTURY THIS BE!
WHY..IT..IT'S THE TWENTIETH CENTURY, OF COURSE! IT'S 1966!
THEN, SEVEN HUNDRED YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE THE MEN OF AVALON PLACED ME IN THE CHAIR OF SURVIVAL!
YOU MEAN..YOU'VE BEEN SLEEPING IN THAT CHAIR FOR SEVEN CENTURIES?!!
AVALON! THE MYTHICAL LAND MENTIONED IN THE LEGENDS OF KING RICHARD!
MYTHICAL, YOU SAY? NOT SO! THERE WAS A LAND OF AVALON.. FOR MY EYES HAVE SEEN IT! IT WAS TRULY A LAND OF WIZARDS... OF KINDLY AND WONDROUS MEN!
... MEN WHO PLACED ME IN THE CHAIR OF SURVIVAL SO THAT I WOULD LIVE TO TELL OF THEIR GLORY... AFTER THE FINAL DAY OF DOOM HAD SLAIN THEM ALL!
THEN IT MUST HAVE BEEN THEY WHO GAVE YOU THAT WEAPON YOU USED AGAINST US!
AYE.. SO IT WAS!
"MY NAME IS PRESTER JOHN... AND LONG HAVE I TRAVELLED THE WORLD SEEKING TO UNRAVEL THE MYSTERIES OF MANKIND. THAT IS WHY MEN HAVE EVER CALLED ME... THE WANDERER!"
MY SERVICE WITH GOOD KING RICHARD HAS FINALLY COME TO AN END!
NOW I AM FREE TO PROBE THE COUNTLESS WONDERS OF FAR OFF LANDS!
12

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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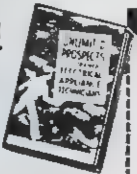

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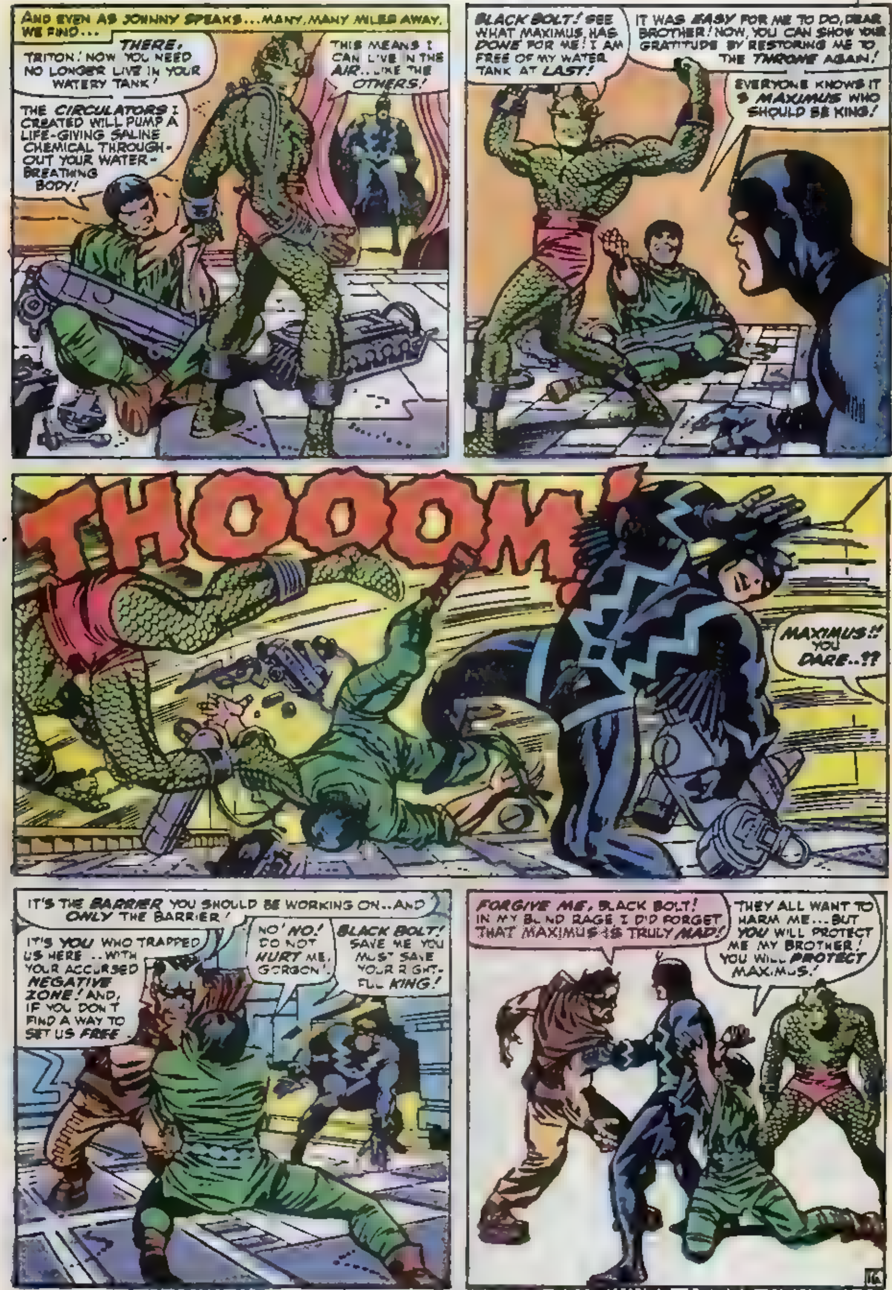
"BUT THE GREATEST TRIUMPH OF MY LIFE WAS FINDING THE FABLED ISLE OF AVALON! AVALON ... HIDDEN REALM OF MIRACLES WITHOUT END! AVALON ... WHOSE WIZARDS CREATED MIGHTY MACHINES WHICH HARNESSED THE NATURAL FORCES OF THE UNIVERSE..."
"ALAS THAT THOSE SAME FORCES SHOULD HAVE DESTROYED THEIR OWN LAND... CAUSING THEM TO VANISH FOREVER FROM THE SIGHT OF MEN!"
NOW, ALL THAT REMAINS OF THE WONDROUS AGE OF AVALON IS THIS WEAPON... KNOWN BY THE ENEMIES IT HAS CONQUERED AS... THE EVIL EYE!
JOHNNY, I LEARNED ABOUT PRESTER JOHN IN ANCIENT HISTORY! HE WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE LIVED IN ABOUT THE TWELFTH CENTURY! IF HIS STORY IS TRUE...!
THEN THERE REALLY WAS A LAND OF AVALON! BUT WHAT DO WE DO ABOUT THE EVIL EYE?
LOOK, WANDERER ... MAYBE YOUR STORY IS TRUE.. BUT DON'T POINT THAT EYE GIZMO AT US AGAIN!
A BOLT OF FLAME .. AT MY FEET!
WE'RE NOT EXACTLY HELPLESS OURSELVES!
IN ALL MY TRAVELS I HAVE SEEN NO POWER MORE AWESOME THAN YOURS!
BUT STILL IT PALES INTO NOTHINGNESS BESIDES THE MIND-STAGGERING IMPACT OF THE EVIL EYE!
WITH JUST ONE SWIFT BLAST.. HE CREATED A BOTTOMLESS CAVERN IN THE ROCKY FLOOR BENEATH US!
THAT IS AS NAUGHT TO THE FURTHER DEEDS I CAN PERFORM!

IT'S SMASHING THROUGH EVERY OBSTACLE LIKE A CANNONBALL PIERCING A PAPER BAG!
HE'S AIMING IT UP... TOWARDS THE SURFACE!
SHABOWW!!
DID YOU SEE THAT?!! THE EVIL EYE IS LIKE A DISINTEGRATOR, A LASER BEAM, AND A BATTERING RAM... ALL ROLLED INTO ONE!
IT'S TOO POWERFUL... TOO DANGEROUS! NOBODY SHOULD HAVE CONTROL OF A WEAPON LIKE THAT... NOT EVEN HIM!
HE'S POINTING IT AT US AGAIN! IT'S STARTING TO GLOW! GOT TO STOP HIM...!
YOU CANNOT STOP ME!
I CAN SEE YOU STILL DO NOT TRUST ME... THEREFORE, UNTIL YOU DO, I MUST PROTECT MYSELF FROM YOU!
YOU DIDN'T REALIZE THE EVIL EYE POSSESSES MANY POWERS... SUCH AS THE POWER OF FORMING AN UN-BREAKABLE SHIELD... WHICH GROWS STRONGER EVERY SECOND!
NOW.. THERE YOU SHALL REMAIN, UNTIL YOU REALIZE THAT THE WANDERER MAY NEVER BE CHALLENGED ... MAY NEVER BE ATTACKED!
WE'RE TRAPPED! THERE'S NO WAY OUT! THE DOME IS STRONGER THAN STEEL... WITH NO OPENING... ANY-WHERE!
WYATT! I JUST REALIZED...!! IT'S EXACTLY LIKE THE TERRIBLE BARRIER BEHIND WHICH CRYSTAL... AND THE INHUMANS... ARE IMPRISONED!!
5.



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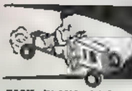

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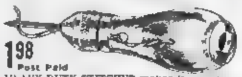

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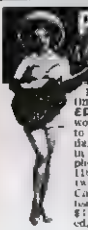

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YOU ARE OUR RIGHTFUL LEADER ..YOU ARE THE STRONGEST AMONG US! EVEN THOUGH YOU CANNOT SPEAK, IS THERE NO WAY TO SAVE US?
BLACK BOLT WILL PROTECT ME.. FOR I AM THE KING!
AND NOW BRUSH AWAY THE COBWEBS AND TRY TO REMEMBER WHERE WE LEFT OFF AS WE REJOIN THE ARMOR-CLAD ...
I MUST FREE THE FLAMING YOUTH AND HIS SOFT-SPOKEN COMPANION!
AS ONE WHO HAS SWORN AN OATH OF KNIGHTLY CHIVALRY, I CANNOT LEAVE THEM TO PERISH WITHIN THE AIRLESS SHIELD!
WHAT THE EVIL EYE HAS CREATED, IT CAN DESTROY!
ZZZTT!
I HAVE RELEASED YOU OF MY OWN FREE WILL! KNOW YOU THEN, I MEAN YOU NO HARM!
OKAY, WANDERER ..WE'RE SOLD!
BUT I'VE GOTTA TALK TO YOU ABOUT THAT EVIL EYE GIZMO
SPEAK THEN FIERY ONE! I SHALL LISTEN!
THERE'S SOMEONE IN ANOTHER LAND---A GIRL I LOVE --WHO'S TRAPPED BEHIND A BARRIER LIKE THE ONE YOUR RAY JUST SHATTERED!
IF IT COULD SMASH OUR BARRIER ---IT MIGHT ALSO FREE HERS! I'VE GOT TO TRY IT!! YOU MUST LEND ME YOUR WEAPON!!
NO! 'TIS IMPOSSIBLE!
DON'T YOU SEE?? IT'S THE ONLY THING THAT MIGHT SAVE CRYSTAL!
JOHNNY .. DON'T! WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU? JOHNNY... LOOK OUT!!
BUTT OUT, WYATT! KEEP BACK! I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING!
THAT FLAME! THE HEAT!..I-I CANNOT HOLD ON TO THE EVIL EYE!! BUT..YOU MUST NOT HAVE IT..!
NO!! ..UHHHHH!
NO ONE CAN STOP ME NOW! I'VE GOT TO FREE CRYSTAL!
17

JOHNNY... WAIT!
I'M THROUGH WAITING! I KNOW WHAT I HAVE TO DO!
TAKE THE CRUISER BACK TO THE BLACK PANTHER, WYATT... WAIT FOR ME THERE!
BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU?
I'LL FLY OUT THROUGH THE OPENING THE WANDERER MADE WITH THE EVIL EYE!
NOTHING CAN STOP ME NOW!
I'LL SET CRYSTAL FREE--OR DIE IN THE ATTEMPT!
YOU MUSTN'T BLAME HIM, PRESTER JOHN! HE COULDN'T HELP HIMSELF! THE GIRL, CRYSTAL, MEANS EVERYTHING TO HIM!
DO YOU NOT THINK I KNOW THE POWER OF LOVE?? BUT.. HE DID NOT GIVE ME A CHANCE TO EXPLAIN... TO WARN HIM..!
WARN HIM OF WHAT?
HE SEIZED THE EVIL EYE BEFORE I COULD PRESS THE SAFETY BUTTON!
THAT MEANS THE POWER IS STILL ON... AND IT WILL KEEP INCREASING.. AND INCREASING... UNTIL IT REACHES THE POINT OF COMPLETE DESTRUCTION!!
IF HE ISN'T STOPPED, HE'LL BLOW HIMSELF UP WITHIN MINUTES!
AND, AS THE UNSUSPECTING TORCH BLAZES ON TOWARDS WHAT SEEMS TO BE CERTAIN DOOM... WE TURN OUR ATTENTION ONCE MORE TO THE STRANGE ACTIVITY OCCURRING WITHIN THE GREAT BARRIER...
MEDUSA... IF YOU LOVE BLACK BOLT.. WHY DO YOU LET HIM DO IT?
I CANNOT STOP HIM, CRYSTAL! HE FEELS IT IS THE ONLY WAY TO DESTROY THE BARRIER
HE IS STILL KING! HIS WORD MUST BE OUR LAW!
ONLY HIS OWN LIFE FORCE HAS THE POWER TO ACTIVATE THE CYCLO-ELECTRONIC CHAMBER -- ENABLING IT TO GENERATE ENOUGH VELOCITY TO SHATTER THE BARRIER.
THE TERRIBLE SHOCK TO HIM--THE STRAIN IT WILL PUT UPON HIS OWN BODY--- MAY KILL HIM... BUT, HE IS DETERMINED TO TRY!
AND ABOVE ALL ELSE-- HE IS BLACK BOLT!

HE IS READY TO BEGIN! BUT..HE DOES NOT EVEN LOOK MY WAY!
HE CANNOT, MEDUSA! HIS LOVE FOR YOU MIGHT MAKE HIM FALTER IF HE COULD SEE THE ANGUISH IN YOUR EYES!
NOW... IT BEGINS! THE FATE OF US ALL LIES WITHIN THE HANDS... AND THE HEART-- OF BLACK BOLT!
THOSE SPARKS!! THAT SUDDEN BURST OF INDESCRIBABLE ENERGY... VISIBLE TO OUR OWN NAKED EYES...
HE BUILDS UP THE ELECTRONS ...WHICH GIVE HIM HIS POWER...
NEVER BEFORE HAS ONE LIVING BEING GENERATED SUCH ENERGY!
EVEN ME CANNOT STAND MUCH MORE!!
STAND BACK! HE'S READY TO ACT..!
LOOK!! HE'S POWERING THE GREAT ABSORBA-BOMB WITH THE ENERGY HIS OWN BODY HAS GENERATED!
THE LONGER HE CAN MAINTAIN THAT POWER BOLT, THE MORE FORCE THE BOMB WILL HAVE!
BUT..HOW LONG BEFORE BLACK BOLT HIMSELF PERISHES IN THE ATTEMPT ??!
WE MUST NOT THINK OF THAT! WE MUST... WAIT! WHAT'S HAPPENING..?!!
THE BUILT-UP PRESSURE IS MORE THAN HE CAN BEAR!
LISTEN!! FOR THE FIRST TIME.. SINCE THE CATASTROPHE... HE'S MAKING A SOUND... HE'S SCREAMING!!
PERSONAL NOTE: WE HAD THOUGHT OF TITLING THIS STORY "BLACK BOLT SCREAMS"... BUT SINCE WE HAVE TO LEAVE HIM AGAIN AT THIS POINT, WE DECIDED AGAINST IT. ANYWAY AT THAT SPLIT SECOND, ANOTHER LIFE-AND-DEATH EPISODE IS TAKING PLACE, IN ANOTHER LAND, AS WE SEE...
JOHNNY..STOP!! WAIT... LISTEN TO ME... JOHNNY!
IT'S NO USE! HE CAN'T HEAR ME... AND WOULDN'T STOP IF HE DID!
THEN, IF YOU BE TRULY HIS FRIEND, IT IS UP TO YOU TO STOP HIM!
19.

NOTE: OUR LETTERS SECTION APPEARS AFTER NEXT PAGE...

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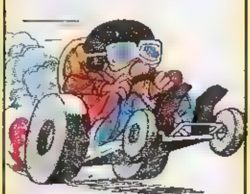

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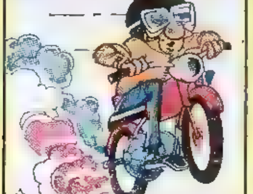

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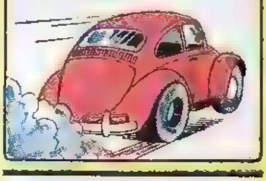

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CAPRICIOUS COMMENTARIES, CAREFULLY COOKED-UP TO CONFUSE AND CONFOUND YOU!

ITEM: It finally happened! For years, ol' Stan has been threatening to take a vacation. But, just like the boy who cried wolf, nobody paid any attention to him after a while. Until, a few days ago, Jolly Solly Brodsky broke the news to the bullpen that Smiley had finally packed his toothbrush and typewriter and headed south! Although Stan managed to write most of this month's yarns before leaving, there are a few he just couldn't get to, and so, some of our other beautific bullpeners took over in his stead! We know you'll get a real charge out of seeing the way Rascally Roy Thomas finished up the Sub-Mariner/Iron Man battle in ASTONISH #82, as well as comparing the deliciously different style of Dandy Denny O'Neil, who completed the final 13 pages of DAREDEVIL #18! And, for the most unexpected surprise of all, Jumpin' Jack Kirby himself wrote the script—in addition to doing the layouts—for Nick Fury's S.H.I.E.L.D. thriller in STRANGE TALES #148! (You'll be amazed at learning that the King's writing style has the same power and punch as his spellbinding artwork!) Thus, with Jolly Solly heroically riding herd over all the bedlam, ably assisted by Fabulous Flo, Mirthful Marie, and Laughin' Larry, we wish Stan the Man a swingin' vacation and hope he comes back soon—those long distance phone calls we've been receiving from him each day are driving us batty!

ITEM: Many of our hipper readers have been swamping us with mail praising the new, more authentic Greenwich Village locale in our Dr. Strange yarns. The reason for such instant realism is that Wild Bill Everett felt that no sacrifice was too great to make for mighty Marvel—thus, when he took over the strip, he shared Rascally Roy's Bleecker Street pad for a while, right in the heart of the Village! It's worked out fine, so far, except for one offbeat problem—Roy and the wild one are convinced that their next-door neighbor is a dead ringer for the dread Dormammu!

ITEM: Sweat shirt fans of the world—unite! This is just for YOU! Now, you no longer have to wear your heavenly Hulk shirt 24 hours a day! Our Department of Public Welfare, taking pity on your sartorial plight—heeding your pleas and entreaties—has created a nutty new Thing sweat shirt, to enable you to diversify your formal attire! It's the most exciting new innovation in wearing apparel since the beanie cap, and it's no mere coincidence that you'll see it advertised elsewhere in this ish! There's a coupon on the ad—do yourself a favor and use it! (Caution: Although perfect for every occasion, we recommend that your ever-lovin' Thing sweat shirt not be worn during a cosmic ray bombardment.)

ITEM: More incomparable info about our once-a-year king size special ishes! Those of you whose tastes run in that direction will be pleased as punch to learn that our 25¢ MILLIE THE MODEL SPECIAL is now on sale! And, as for the rest of you, you can seek solace in the fact that Marvel's 25¢ SGT. FURY AND HIS HOWLING COMMANDOS SPECIAL is also lending a note of excitement to your favorite mag rack right now! It features a block-busting never-before-printed epic which you've all been clamoring for—the Howlers in action on D-Day! Take our word for it—it's a comic book bombshell! Then, the next two once-yearly Marvel Masterworks to watch for will be the 25¢ THOR SPECIAL, as well as our sensational MARVEL SUPER-HEROES SPECIAL! We'll give you the complete scoop on them next ish in this space. (And, be sure to save another four bits for our final two Specials which go on sale in July—the long-awaited FANTASTIC FOUR and SPIDER-MAN super-spectaculars!) Yep, it's gonna be a great summer in Marveldom, and we're planning to spend it right with you—no matter where you may be! (We just hope you don't snore!)

ITEM: Now it can be told! Wondrous Werner Roth—whom you've known as Jay Gavin—has elected to join the growing list of Marvel madmen who are so proud of the work they've been doing that they no longer want to use an artistic alias! So now we know Jay's real moniker, as well as the fact that Adam Austin is actually Gene Colan, and Frankie Ray was merely a nom de plume for Frank Giacoia! (It's like following a detective story!) Anyway, if you think all of this is confusing, wait'll we finally turn the spotlight on Honest Irving Forbush! Hooo boy!

ITEM: Let's add two more groovy deejays to our luminous list of Merry Marchers! Dazzlin' Dick Robinson has been spreading the word about mighty Marvel throughout New England from station WDRC at Hartford, Connecticut! Great to have you aboard, Dick! And how about Sparklin' Spence Allen! Ol' Spenceroo, whose home base is WKSN (they call it "kissin' radio"—pretty cute, huh?) at Jamestown, N. Y., has been doing some of the funniest take-offs you've ever heard by combining pop records with mirthful Marvel interviews! Grab a listen if you're in the area—they're a blast!

ITEM: Have you heard about our cavortin' characters entering politics? Well, mebbe we're exaggerating a bit, but we thought you'd get a kick out of hearing that SLATE, one of the political student parties at the University of California (the one at Berkeley, Stan!) ("In" joke! Forgive us.)—SLATE has been using our heart-warmin' heroes on its campaign posters during the recent college elections! Obviously, they're one bunch of campus cut-ups that are really facin' front!

ITEM: We just had to tell you this! It broke us up the other day! We were sitting around the bullpen, engaged in our usual activity of taking a coffee break and watching the clock, when King Kirby walked in, after having finished an hour-long story conference with Stan. By way of an exit line, Jack was heard to mutter: "Well, we just polished off a few holocausts, and a cataclysm or two! Now, I'll go out and relax by dreaming up a few simple disasters!" Somehow, there's more truth than poetry to that sentiment. Ever wonder what it's like to illustrate galactic wars, battles between gods, and cosmic adventures day after day? If a simple thing like an earthquake took place across the street, Jack probably wouldn't even hear it!

THE WRAP-UP: Next ish, on this page, we'll announce the result of our poll in which we asked you whether we should continue to rib Brand Echh or ignore them completely from now on! Also, we'll have additional nutty news and notes from the far corners of Marveldom! So, even if you don't like our stories—even if you shudder at our artwork—we expect you to tune in again next month anyway—after all, SOMEONE'S gotta read these bulletins! 'Nuff said!

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

A Line-Up Of Some Of The Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

SPIDER-MAN #40: The one you've been waiting for! The wrap-up of the amazing saga of the Green Goblin!

AVENGERS #31: Goliath fights as never before, in the block-busting display of sheer power which you've clamored for!

X-MEN #23: With the fate of the nation's capital hanging in the balance, the X-Men must defeat Count Nefaria's super-team, or die!

DAREDEVIL #19: Don't miss the hair-raising return of the Masked Marauder—as we learn the fate of Foggy Nelson!

THOR #131: Goldilocks has battled all sorts of foes before—but never one as shocking as the dreaded Space Colonizer!

STRANGE TALES #148: What happens when Shield itself tries to get rid of Nick Fury? And, don't dare miss the Origin of the Ancient One—and Kaluu!

SUSPENSE #81: Talk about surprises! Titanium Man is back! Plus the saga of Cap desperately battling the power of Red Skull's cosmic cube!

ASTONISH #83: Follow the Sub-Mariner on the trail of Krang once more! Also, don't miss the meeting of General Ross and the Hulk.

SGT. FURY #33: Guns roar in Greece as Fury and his fightin' fanatics are captured by the enemy! Guest-starring: The two-fisted Skipper!

FANTASY MASTERPIECES #4: More Golden Age thrills with Captain America, plus the greatest fantasy epics of all!

MARVEL TALES #4: The most marvelous line-up yet — Spider-Man! Thor! Ant-Man! And the Human Torch!

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SGT. FURY 25¢ SPECIAL #2: This is the big one! The actual story of D-Day, as seen thru the eyes of the Howlers themselves!

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Let's meet 26 more M.M.M.S members!

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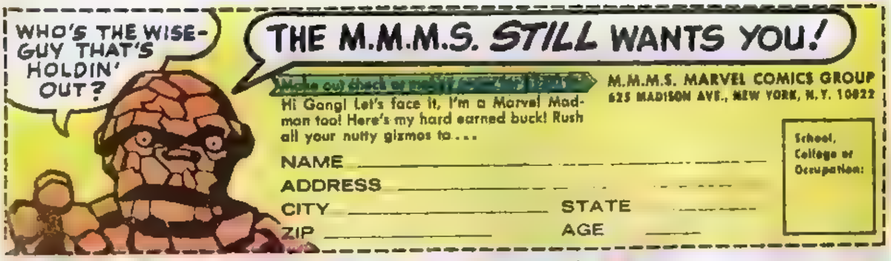


Fantastic Four Fan Page

c/o LEE and KIRBY
THE MARVEL COMICS GROUP
SECOND FLOOR 625 MADISON AVE.
NEW YORK 10022 N.Y.

Dear Stan and Jack,

Why? Why? Why don't you give the Fantastic Four a person, a single person, to fight, and not a bunch of space bums running around cluttering up the yarn and making the pages look utterly disgraceful? Tut, tut, my good men, when will you learn? How about our seeing some action?!! Snap to it! Hurry up! Not that I'm Fury puffing on a cigar or something, but let's get things rolling!

David Carmichael, 1805 32nd St.
Vernon, Br. Col., Canada

Why? Why? Why can't we publish an ish — just once — which *everybody* likes? (Although we must admit that we've seen days when we had trouble coming up with a tale that *anybody* would dig!) Anyway, thanks for your letter, Davey — we think!

Dear Stan and Jack,

I've got to congratulate you. Galactus was the greatest! The Silver Surfer was a real swinger. Probably both of these super-villains are better than the Inhumans. I really like the way you made Benjy blame himself for being the Thing. Please don't let him change back to Ben Grimm again. It's not that I hate him or want him to suffer, but because it gives life to your magazine. Let Alicia regain her sight. This will create a very interesting situation. I just read F.F. #51 - "This Man . . . This Monster!" The picture of Ben standing in the rain on page 1 was truly a masterpiece. Say, you guys can really create neat villains. You actually were giving away all the thoughts that the bad guy in issue #51 was having, like how he realized that Reed Richards was in reality something far different from a hotshot, how he suddenly decided to save the same man he had hated all his life, and especially his last thought of "Mebbe we don't haveta both die, mister!" He gave his life to save Reed Richards, and without a single regret. This story had one of the best plots ever. The guy who thought it up deserves to be called "Jules Verne"

Jacques Boivin, 223 Knox Crescent
Ottawa 8, Ont., Canada

Oh *yeah*? What comics did *he* ever write? — Only kidding, Jack — we appreciate the compliment . . . except, on account of you, Smiley and the jolly one will probably call their next dozen villains "Captain Nemo"!

Dear Stan and Jack,

After having the F.F. fight a villain (Dr. Doom), then a group (Frightful Four), then a colony (the Inhumans), then a galactic-wide threat (Galactus), I wondered what would come next. Then came F.F #51. One look at it and I thought that it would be a let-down after the Galactus adventure. But I was sadly mistaken. "This Man . . . This Monster!" was a literary masterpiece, and that comes nowhere near adequately describing it. It was not only equal to #50, but surpassed it. When the villain gave up his life to save the very man whom he started out to destroy, I felt a lump forming in my throat. Now that you have featured the most colorful array of villains, how about some simple down-to-earth-type baddies like Dr. Doom, Diablo, or the Puppet Master? I like to see them once in a while. Another point I must bring out is competition. Recently, comics went into a full-scale war. And just when I was about to explode at you guys for popping off about Brand Ecch, you came up with a wonderful write-up in your Marvel Bullpen Bulletins. Good for you!

Jerry Mills, 1522 W. 261st St.
Harbor City, Calif.

Well, you know us, Jerr — we always come thru under the wire at the last minute! It's our comic mag training! But, waddaya mean by calling Doc Doom, Diablo, and the pusillanimous Puppet Master simple down-to-earth baddies? They're not exactly the type you see being hauled in to your local precinct, are they? (If they are, tell us about it — we're moving in!)

Dear Stan and Jack,

After reading the "Startling Saga of the Silver Surfer" (F.F. #50), I simply had to pen these few comments. This is the finest issue ever to come from Marvel, without a doubt. The Homeric scope of the plot, the pure poetry of the dialogue, and the masterful artwork of Jack Kirby all left me amazed when I had finished this one. If you come up with a story of this stature once a year, it's worth the effort. I trust that before you go signing any movie contracts for your mighty Marvel characters, you will have the wisdom to insure that they are done by someone with sufficient cinematic competence. Please avoid the kind of insults to comicdom we have seen on television and elsewhere lately. May I suggest Akira Kurosawa as a suitable director? Of course, only your venerable self is worthy of writing the script if such a film is to have any artistic significance.

Russell, Hamm, 711 Norton Hall, Univ. of Calif.,
2400 Durant Ave., Berkeley, Calif

You'll get part of your wish anyway, Russ. The scripts are going to be the actual stories you've seen in past ishes of our Marvel mags — and the artwork of our new, modern-style TV cartoon features will be photographed directly from the mags themselves! (Another mighty bullpen first!) So, what you — and a zillion other frantic ones everywhere — will be seeing are actual Marvel stories and art brought to life on your home screen, in glowing color, thru the magic of the most dazzling, off-beat Hollywood trick photography we've seen in years! So, what else is new?

Dear Stan and Jack,

Needless to say, F.F. #51 was great! I think it was one of the greatest issues you have ever put out. I say this because with F.F. #51 you have reached a new plateau of greatness in the comics field. You produced an excellent mag without having a single action scene. This shows that a comic doesn't have to be plastered with action to be great. Let me expand on this point. Mr. Fantastic made no attempt to stretch, Sue didn't have any need to turn invisible, Ben was not the Thing for most of the tale, and the only items that Johnny allowed to flare up were his thumb and his temper. But with all this greatness, one thing doesn't register. On page 8, when an enraged Benjamin Grimm comes storming into the room, there is a

quick, heated discussion. Then a disorganized and thoroughly distraught Ben storms out after having made a vain attempt to warn Reed and Sue of the impending disaster, and merely being dismissed as a crackpot who bears a striking resemblance to the real Ben Grimm who is, at this time, in the form of the Thing. After the embarrassment of the scene has worn off, Reed, Sue and the "changeling in Thing's clothing" settle down to the business at hand. Everything is in a state of euphoria and all is well with the world. I hate to terminate this tenuous feeling of utopia, but don't you think that Reed and Sue should be a little bit concerned about how in the name of Irving Forbush their splenetic visitor managed to breach the transcendent defenses of F.F. Headquarters with such seeming ease? Indeed, more unutterable words were never uttered when I say, " 'Nuff said!"

Russell Bullock Jr., Pleasant St.
Pembroke, Mass. 02359

Face it, R.B. — if you were about to risk your neck by travelling into some nutty kinda negative zone beyond our own time-and-space continuum where man hath never trod — isn't it just barely possible you might overlook something like a burglar alarm that hasn't been tripped? (Although, we must admit, any joker who can toss off a word like "splenetic" in a casual letter is probably right about his criticism, also!)

Dear Stan and Jack,

Congratulations on F.F. #50! May your next fifty be just as successful! F.F. #50 was symbolic. Galactus represented the Viet Cong, the powerful aggressor, but not realizing fully his error. The noble F.F. assumed the role of South Viet Nam – they needed help from a more powerful source. The Silver Surfer, as America, helped a lesser people in their time of need, even though he himself was not involved. And Alicia characterized Stan, Marvel, the President and all other loyal, patriotic, freedom-loving Americans. Very appropriate, indeed! The moral: a freedom-loving people, no matter where in the galaxy they exist, will not hesitate to help their fellows. We Americans, as the Silver Surfer, should be glad to help our neighbors in Viet Nam. Also, it is interesting to note that in the end the F.F. were allowed to deal the final, crushing blow. Stan, I couldn't agree more. In parting, I would like to say that, in my humble opinion, Captain America should be sent to Viet Nam. This would be a large part of your freedom effort.

Greg Jones, 4106 Donna Lynn Dr.
Houston, Tex. 77018

Hooo boy! We never know what kind of message Marvelites are gonna read into our swingin' little sagas! We think your allegorical references are clever as all get-out, Greg, and we're glad you enjoyed the apparent symbolism. *But* — two'll getcha ten that our next mail contains a whole kaboodle of letters from equally imaginative fans who are utterly convinced that Galactus represented Robert McNamara, while the Silver Surfer was Wayne Morse — with Alicia symbolizing Lady Bird! That's one of the most interesting things about creating these little imageries for such aware fans — we can't dot an *i* without someone reading some deep subliminal message into it. (Of course, we *do* put a lot of personality into our *i*-dotting!)

Dear Stan and Jack,

I can hold back no longer. I just had to express my feelings at reading F.F. #50! With this issue, the F.F. reached a new pinnacle of greatness. Even before this ish, F.F. was far and away your best mag, but the Bullpen Gang really outdid themselves in giving us "The Saga of the Silver Surfer". The Surfer's gallant gesture in attempting to save Earth in the face of doom was unparalleled in the annals of the Marvel Age. Johnny Storm's shock at having seen cosmic wonders beyond the scope of human imagination was a touch of realism seldom seen anywhere but in Marvel. Many have complained to you about the various subplots which wander from the story line. Well, that's absurd – little scenes like the episode of Whitey Mullins and Johnny's first day of college help to relieve monotony and build a basis for future story lines. Keep it up, Stan! Artwise, Kirby and Sinnott are a must for each other. Their enhancing drawings of the Surfer sure didn't hurt the story any! Also, the presence on Earth of the Silver Surfer presents some mighty interesting possibilities. Ol' Surf could sure make it uncomfortable for some villains if he travelled in the skies as a hero. So, keep up the majestic Marvel masterpieces – you know what Irving does to slackers!

Ted Rypel, 3334 W. 52nd
Cleveland, Ohio 44102

Irving, Ted? Whoever on earth is *he?*

Dear Stan and Jack,

Stupendous, terrific, magnificent are only a few words which can describe F.F. #51. This is the first time I have written – I felt it was my duty. Stan, Jack, Joe, even Artie, outdid themselves. The cover and full-length picture on page 14 were great. Baldilocks is one of your best characters. (I really don't know his name.) I'd like to see more of him, but he's probably dead now. Well, that's the way the characters crumble. F.F. is the greatest, but I also like the AVENGERS, DAREDEVIL, DR. STRANGE, and, oh yeah, the new teenage HULK, which is what he looks like now. For proof, look at ish #77, page 13, and page 8 of the HULK story. Giant-Man's new get-up is also great. So, until Thor gets his hair cut off, and Odin gets dandruff, so long!

Joe Kusbel, 5635 Wegg Ave.
East Chicago, Ind

So long, Joey. Glad you like the things you do like — and sorry you don't like whatever it may be that you don't like. (You sure caught us in an agreeable mood!) And Odin wants to know if you can recommend a good dandruff remover — while Baldilocks, whose name *we've* forgotten, also — says it's too late for *him!*

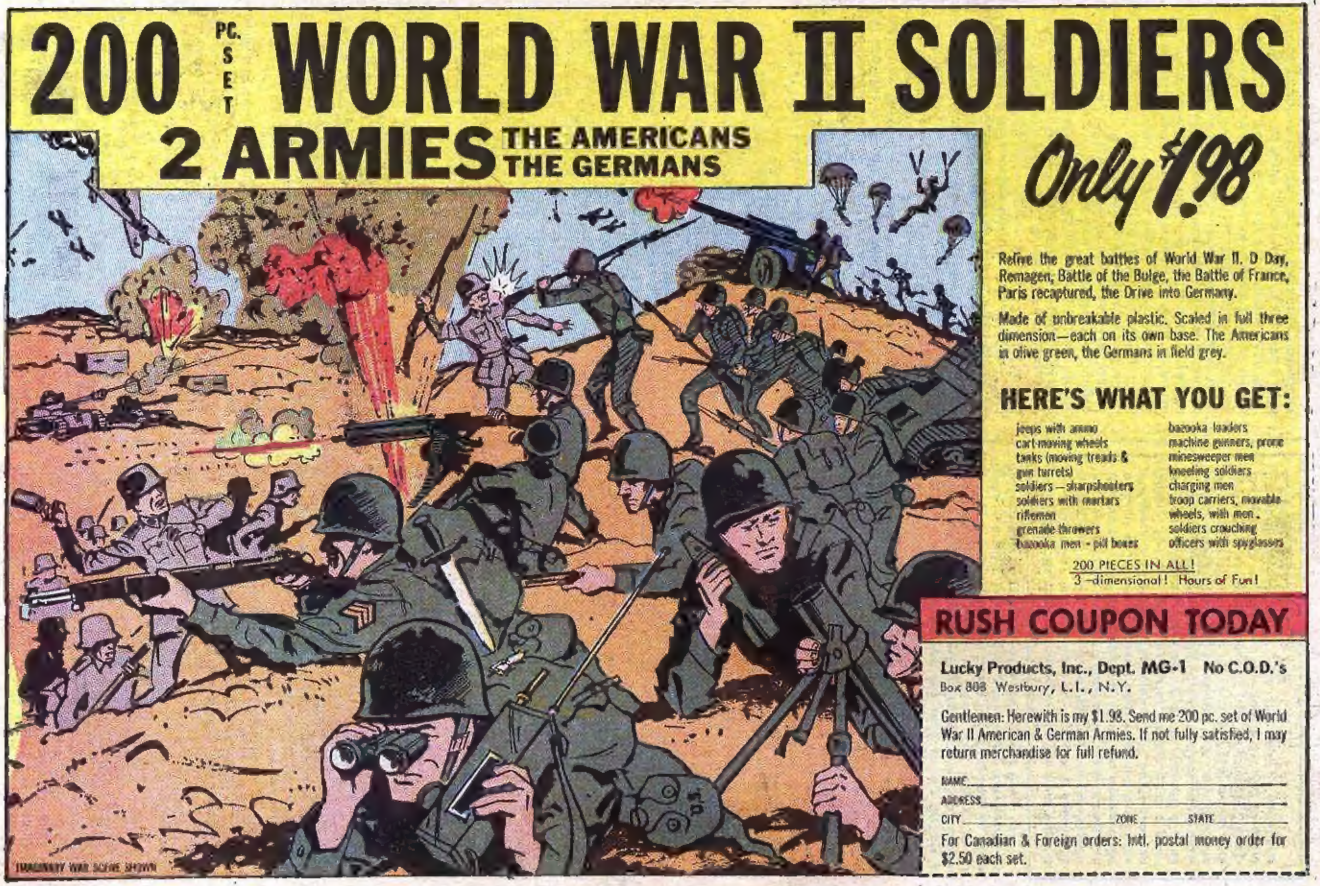
Dear Stan and Jack,

As a contented high school dropout, I must strongly object to your sending Johnny Storm to college! When Johnny first appeared in F.F. he was a cool, hot-rod loving, rebellious teenager. Now you've changed him into a first class square. I thought, by this time, he would be dropping out of high school rather than entering college. What a disappointment! Also, what about the high school stay-ins? There are probably ten times as many of them as there are collegians, to whom you always seem to be catering. Formerly, they could identify themselves with either Peter Parker (Spider-Man) or the Human Torch. Now that they've both become squares, the high school students are left out! I know it's too late to correct this, but I'll still be a fan

Pete Marzano. 3619 S. 61 Court
Cicero, Ill

Whew! That's a relief! But, we're gonna let you in on a secret, Petey. The Torch and Spidey are just as rebellious as ever — as most young people are — because that's part of growing up — part of gaining a social consciousness. But, as with most of the hip, aware, highly-articulate high-school and college students of today, they're rebellious against the things that count — such as intolerance, injustice, and hypocrisy! But, to be rebellious against education — man, you gotta be kiddin'! Knowledge is the only weapon we've got — the only weapon that counts — the only weapon that one day may gain a victory of lasting significance for all us good guys over the bad guys! Don't ever knock it, Pete! And forgive us for getting on a soap-box without warning, but we kinda think we just echoed the no-kiddin' convictions of Marvelites everywhere! At least we sure *hope* so!

NEXT ISH: We don't wanna give you the hard sell this time, because we don't have to! This one is practically guaranteed to be a sell-out — as soon as it hits the stands! Besides bringing you up to date about the inconceivable Inhumans — besides filling you in on the domestic life of Reed and Sue — besides giving a startling hint of the wonders yet to come — it features an epic battle between bashful Ben and the Silver Surfer, as they go at it hammer and tongs for the love of Alicia Masters! It's the kind of action-sensation that only King Kirby could draw — the kind of dramatic bombshell that only Stan the Man could write – the kind of magnificent masterwork that only a true Marvelite could fully comprehend! (Imagine what we might say if we hadn't decided to avoid the hard sell!) So, till F.F. #55, face front – we wanna remember you just as you are!



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